

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the non-final Official Action mailed October 4, 2004. Reconsideration of the application in light of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

By the forgoing amendment, the specification and various claims have been amended. Claims 13-26 and 36-42 have been withdrawn from consideration under a previous Restriction Requirement. New claims 43-50 have been added. No original claims have been cancelled. Thus, claims 1-12, 27-35 and 43-50 are currently pending for the Examiner's consideration.

With regard to the prior art, the outstanding Office Action rejected claims 1-3, 5-7, 27-30 and 32 as anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) by U.S. Patent No. 5,630,308 to Guckenberger ("Guckenberger"); and claims 1-3, 6, 7, 9-12 and 27-30 as anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) by U.S. Patent No. 3,302,851 to Johnson ("Johnson").

Additionally, various dependent claims were rejected as follows: claims 4-8, 31, 33 and 34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the combined teachings of Guckenberger or Johnson with U.S. Patent No. 5,375,718 to Honma et al. ("Honma") and U.S. Patent No. 5,510,165 to Seki ("Seki"); and claims 9-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the teachings of Guckenberger or Johnson taken alone.

For at least the following reasons, these rejections are all respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites;

A ream of print medium in a media wrapper for use in a printing device comprising:

a quantity of print medium configured to be automatically fed into a printing device for formation of images thereon; and
a wrapper containing said quantity of print medium, said wrapper comprising:
a first end;
a second end; and
a perforation disposed between said first and second ends;
wherein said perforation is configured to split said media wrapper to separate said first and second ends.

Similar subject matter is recited by independent claims 9 and 27.

For example, claim 9 recites:

A ream of print media comprising:
print media; and
a print media wrapper including a first end, a second end, and a perforation disposed between said first and second ends, wherein said perforation is configured to split said media wrapper to separate said first and second ends.

And, claim 27 recites:

A packaged print medium in a media packaging wrapper for use in a document producing device comprising;
a quantity of print medium;
a wrapping means for wrapping said print medium; and
a separating means for separating said wrapping means, such that a first portion of said wrapping means is removed, while a second portion remains around said print medium providing support to said quantity of print medium.

In contrast, none of the cited prior art of record, including Guckenberger and Johnson, teaches or suggests a ream of print medium in which “a quantity of print medium” is contained in a wrapper with first and second ends that can be separated using a perforation, as claimed.

The idea of packaging that includes perforation or scoring to facilitate opening is known, as demonstrated by the cited prior art. However, the idea has never been applied to packaging for print media. There is no teaching or suggestion in the prior art that the packaging disclosed may be part of a ream or package of print medium.

"A claim is anticipated [under 35 U.S.C. § 102] only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California, 2 U.S.P.Q.2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987) (emphasis added). See M.P.E.P. § 2131. For at least this reason, the rejection of the claims based on Guckenberger or Johnson should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Additionally, there is further no teaching or suggestion in the prior art of packaging for print medium with "separating means for separating said wrapping means, such that a first portion of said wrapping means is removed, while a second portion remains around said print medium providing support to said quantity of print medium," as recited in claim 27. (emphasis added). For at least this additional reason, the rejection of claim 27, and its dependent claims, based on Guckenberger should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Additionally, Guckenberger does not teach or suggest the claimed "perforation." Rather, Guckenberger teachings laser scoring of a "packaging substrate." Thus, Guckenberger is additionally inapplicable to Applicant's claims. For at least this additional reason, the rejection of the claims based on Guckenberger should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claim 6 recites: "a placement indicator; wherein said placement indicator is configured to indicate a nap of said print medium." Claims 12 and 33 recite similar subject matter.

In contrast, none of the prior art cited teaches or suggests the claimed placement indicator that indicates "a nap of said print medium." Moreover, the recent Office Action fails to indicate how or where the cited prior art teaches such subject matter.

Again, "[a] claim is anticipated [under 35 U.S.C. § 102] only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California, 2 U.S.P.Q.2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987) (emphasis added). See M.P.E.P. § 2131. For at least this additional reason, the rejection of claims 6, 12 and 33, and all claims that depend therefrom, based on Guckenberger or Johnson should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

The newly added claims are thought to be patentable over the prior art of record for at least the same reasons given above with respect to the original independent claims. Examination and allowance of the new claims is respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, the present application is thought to be clearly in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration of the application in light of these remarks is courteously solicited. If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions which could place this application in even better form, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

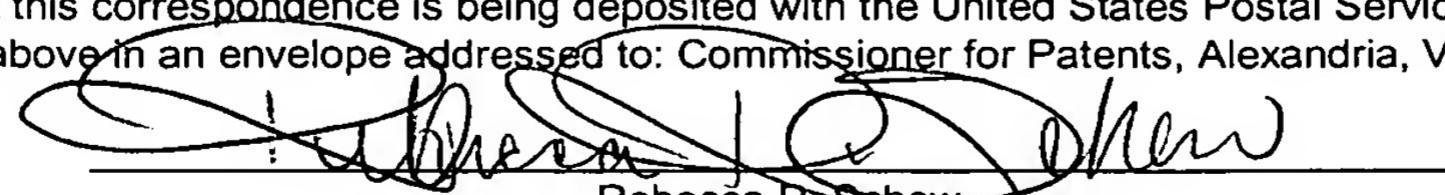


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